

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

REFERENCE

ALI, S. AND RIPLEY, S. D. (1968): Handbook of the birds of India and Pakistan. Vol. 1. Oxford University Press, Bombay.

12. SEASONALITY AND OCCURRENCE OF BIRDS IN THE EASTERN GHATS

The Errata on p. 240 of the *Journal* for April 1982 regarding the "Seasonality and Occurrence of Birds in the Eastern Ghats of Andhra Pradesh" 76(3) 1979 pp. 379-422 reminds me that when I wrote to Mr. Trevor Price, I also mentioned the improbability of the thousands of swifts (once counted as 8500) "undertaking daily migration throughout winter from the palm trees in the coastal plains to over the Ghats" being Palm Swifts (*Cypsiurus parvus*) as recorded (l.c., p. 410).

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In March 1982 I was invited to the Eastern Ghats Environmental Seminar and one day we drove from Vizagapatnam to Lamasinghi. The paucity of Palm Swifts inspite of the abundance of the Borassus Palm (though all had their "heads" closely trimmed) was very striking. Could this lack of roosts have changed the habits of the Swifts and got them to collect elsewhere in large numbers?

Or were the birds not palm swifts at all?

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13. A CURIOUS EXPERIENCE WITH A SMALL MINIVET (*PERICROCOTUS CINNAMOMEUS*)

At about 9.30 a.m. on the morning of 8th May 1982, a chick, presumably unable to fly, was picked up on the ground behind our bungalow at Kihim, Alibag tal., Kolaba (now Rigadh) Dist., Maharashtra on an open piece of sandy ground under Casuarinas.

It was very lethargic in its movements and made no effort to escape handling by several people who were guessing at its identity.

We brought it to the house about 50 yards away and put in in an open cheese tin lined with Casuarina leaves. At 10 a.m. it drank 10/15 drops of milk delivered soaked in cotton wool. This appeared to liven it up. It now

started to utter sharp high notes at regular intervals.

At noon it was brought outside into the open, it perched on the edge of the tin and was fed with bread crumbs soaked with milk. It continued to call.

At 12.30 p.m., just three hours after it was found, it fluttered out of the tin and fell to the ground about 10 feet away, to be immediately joined by the parents, who had presumably also been calling and had thus established contact. They indulged in a display of affection by fluttering close to the chick and nudging it right and left.